

SAXIFLORA

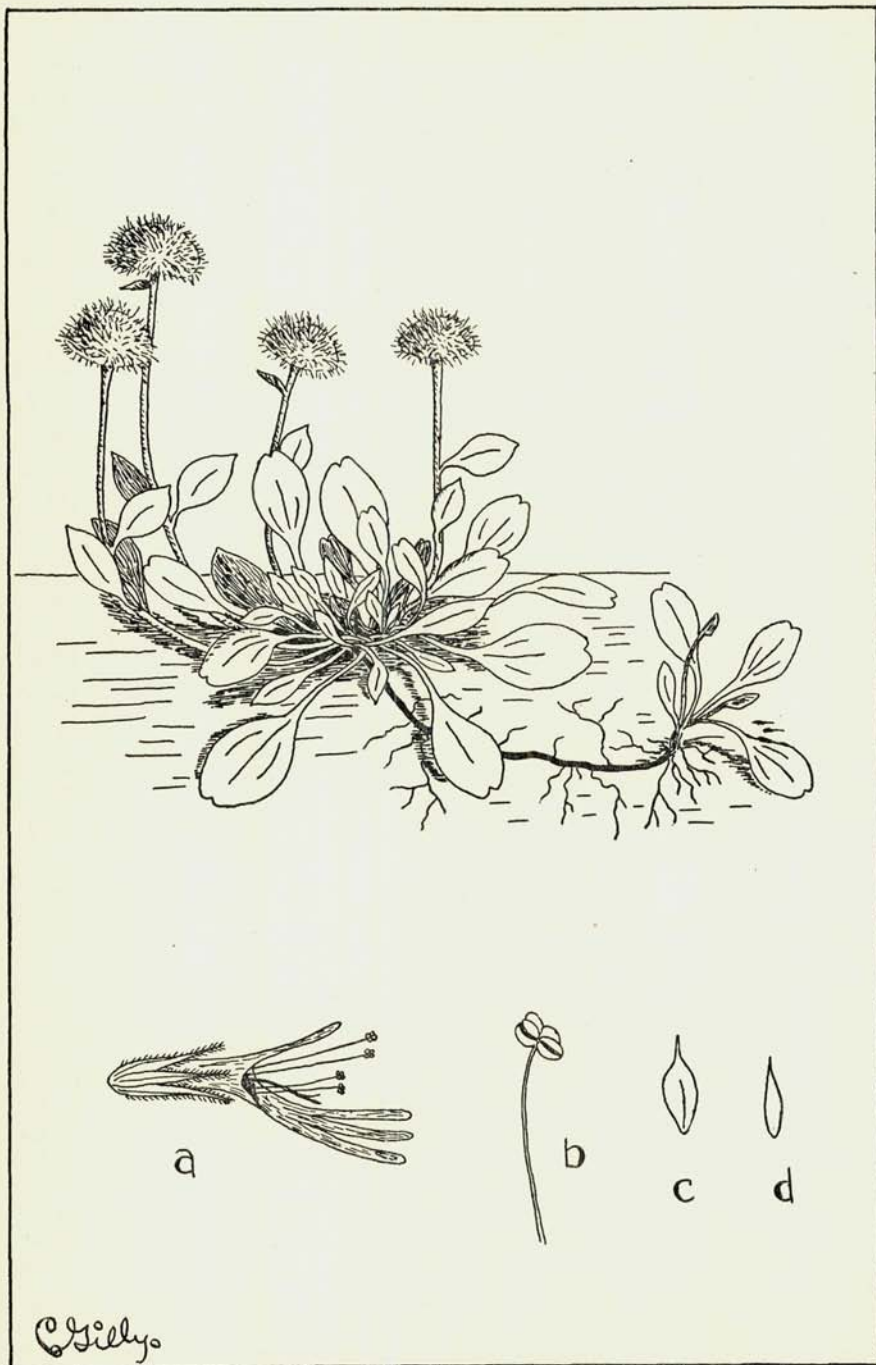
PLATE 14

Globularia incanescens
(*Globulariaceae*)

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Globularia incanescens

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This is one of two tiny globe daisies which have earned admission to the choicest parts of our rock garden in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the other being *G. cordifolia* var. *nana* (*G. nana*, *G. repens* of Lamarck).

While the latter, because of its truly miniature proportions and close-cropped appearance may hold greater attraction for many rock gardeners, it is, here, so extremely sensitive to overhead moisture in hot weather that the slightest overdose of it is likely to give rise to a blight which quickly destroys whole plants or parts of them.

Our present subject, *G. incanescens*, to be sure, shares this dislike of overhead moisture and the preference for sharply-drained, open situations among lime-rocks. But we have found it to be not nearly so susceptible to blight and, therefore, a more permanent possession.

It is not sufficiently hardy here to maintain any foliage throughout the winter, and it seems, every winter, to freeze down to a frazzle, but it recovers promptly in the spring and forms very neat, compact little clumps during the summer.

Propagation may be effected easily by means of spring division, after the plants have recuperated from their winter beating. Outside pieces may be taken off for propagation at almost any time.

The plant hails from the mountains about Carrara, of marble fame, in Tuscany, Italy, and from nearby stations in the Apennines.

It differs from all other *Globularias* by the undivided upper lip of the corolla. Because of this character, the plant was placed in a separate genus, *Carradoria*, in De Candolle's Prodrômus. In Engler's Pflanzenfamzilien it is retained under the genus *Globularia*, in a separate section, *Carradoria*.

The Plate, reproduced to natural size, represents a fragment of an established plant in our garden, growing in a pocket of a slab of tufa rock,—a comparatively small form of the species, further reduced in stature by its cramped situation. We add only these descriptive notes:

It forms a compact, low mat, less than an inch high, with ascending flowering stems rising somewhat higher. It spreads slowly by means of short, woody stems just below the surface of the ground. Leaves and stems are hairless. The basal leaves are round or nearly so, shorter than their petioles, and notched at the apex; the stem-leaves are longer-tapered at the base, longer than their petioles, and not notched at the apex, but provided with a short point (a mucro). All leaves are minutely pitted with "punctate"

depressions on both surfaces and at least partly covered with a whitish granulation, which is visible only under a lens. The upper surfaces are, nevertheless, of a green and somewhat shiny appearance.

The flowering stems bear, between the uppermost leaf and the flower-head, mostly one small bract.

The tiny, dull-lilac-blue flowers are borne in dense, many-flowered, button-like heads, in May or early June. The heads are subtended by an involucre, the outer bracts of which are lanceolate and fringed along the margin.

We have found *G. incanescens* a very satisfactory plant over a number of years. It thrives well, here, in pockets and joints of lime rocks or the type of tufa which we obtain in upper New York State.

A little-known plant, this,—but pretty and deserving wider acquaintance.
P. J. VAN MELLE.